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**NUCLEIC ACID VACCINE COMPOSITIONS HAVING A  
MAMMALIAN CD80/CD86 GENE PROMOTER DRIVING ANTIGEN  
EXPRESSION**

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Abstract of the Disclosure

10 Polynucleotides encoding at least one immunizing antigen whose  
expression is controlled by a promoter derived from a gene encoding a co-  
stimulatory molecule are provided. The polynucleotides may also encode  
adjuvants. Compositions comprising at least one immunizing agent and at  
least one cytokine that enhance dendritic cell stimulation and/or survival are  
also provided. Methods for eliciting an immune response against the  
15 immunizing agent are also provided. The method includes the steps of  
administering the polynucleotides and, optionally, co-administering an  
adjuvant.